This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. - 19. (cancelled).

20. (original). A method for preventing or treating ototoxicity in a patient exposed to noise for a time and at an intensity sufficient to result in ototoxicity, comprising administering to said patient an anti-ototoxic effective amount of an otoprotective agent comprising methionine.

21. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 20 wherein said otoprotective agent is selected from the group consisting of D-methionine, L-methionine, D,L-methionine, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a combination thereof.

22. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 21, wherein said otoprotective agent is D-methionine.

23. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 21, wherein said otoprotective agent is L-methionine.

24. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 20, wherein said otoprotective agent is administered prior to said noise exposure.

25. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 20, wherein said otoprotective agent is administered simultaneously with said noise exposure.

26. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 20, wherein said otoprotective agent is administered subsequently to said noise exposure.

27. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 20, wherein said effective amount of said otoprotective agent is administered to said patient in a time period ranging from about 336 hours before to about 336 hours after said exposure to noise.

28. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 27, wherein said effective amount of said otoprotective agent is administered to said patient in a time period ranging from about 48 hours before to about 48 hours after said exposure to noise.

29. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 20, wherein said otoprotective agent is administered orally, parenterally, or topically to the round window membrane.

30. - 31. (cancelled).

32. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 29, wherein the administration of said effective amount of said otoprotective agent results in a blood serum level equivalent to that achieved by parenteral administration in the range of from about 10 mg/kg body weight to about 400 mg/kg body weight.

33. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 20, further comprising administering to said patient a supplemental amount of said otoprotective agent after the administration of said effective amount.

34. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 33, wherein said supplemental amount of said otoprotective agent is administered orally, parenterally, or topically to the round window membrane of said patient.

35. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 34, wherein the administration of said supplemental amount of said otoprotective agent is sufficient to maintain an effective blood serum level of the otoprotective agent in said patient for a period of from one to fourteen days after the administration of said effective amount.

36. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 34, wherein the administration of said supplemental amount of said otoprotective agent is sufficient to maintain a blood serum level of otoprotective agent within said patient of at least about 10% of the blood serum level achieved by administration of the effective amount of said otoprotective agent.

37. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 34, wherein the administration of said supplemental amount of said otoprotective agent is sufficient to maintain a blood serum level of otoprotective agent within said patient of from about 20% to about 70% of the blood serum level achieved by administration of the effective amount of said otoprotective agent.

38. (original). A method for preventing or treating ototoxicity in a patient exposed to noise for a time and at an intensity sufficient to result in ototoxicity, the method comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of an otoprotective agent comprising D-methionine, L-methionine, D,L-methionine, a combination thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, the administration of said effective amount of said otoprotective agent resulting in a blood serum level equivalent to that achieved by parenteral administration in the range of from about 10 mg/kg body weight to about 400 mg/kg body weight.

39. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 38, wherein said otoprotective agent is administered parenterally, orally or topically to the round window membrane of said patient.

40. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 38, wherein said effective amount of said otoprotective agent is administered to said patient in a time period ranging from about 336 hours before to about 336 hours after said exposure to noise.

41. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 38, further comprising administering to said patient a supplemental amount of said otoprotective agent after the administration of said effective amount, the administration of said supplemental amount of said otoprotective agent being sufficient to maintain a blood serum level of otoprotective agent within said patient of from about 20% to about 70% of the blood serum level achieved by administration of the effective amount of said otoprotective agent.

42. - 56. (cancelled).

57. (currently amended). A method for preventing or treating ototoxicity in a patient exposed to noise for a time and at an intensity sufficient to result in ototoxicity, comprising administering to said patient an anti-ototoxic effective amount of an otoprotective agent comprising methionine; provided that, at the time said otoprotective agent is administered, an antineoplastic effective dose of cisplatin has not been **administered or** prescribed for administration to said patient.

58. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim **57 [[60]]** wherein said otoprotective agent is selected from the group consisting of D-methionine,

L-methionine, D,L-methionine, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a combination thereof.

59. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 57, wherein said otoprotective agent is D-methionine.

60. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 57, wherein said otoprotective agent is administered prior to said noise exposure.

61. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 57, wherein said otoprotective agent is administered simultaneously with said noise exposure.

62. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 57, wherein said otoprotective agent is administered subsequently to said noise exposure.

63. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 57, wherein said effective amount of said otoprotective agent is administered to said patient in a time period ranging from about 336 hours before to about 336 hours after said exposure to noise.

64. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 63, wherein said effective amount of said otoprotective agent is administered to said patient in a time period ranging from about 48 hours before to about 48 hours after said exposure to noise.

65. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 60, wherein said otoprotective agent is administered orally, parenterally, or topically to the round window membrane.

66. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 65, wherein the administration of said effective amount of said otoprotective agent results in a blood serum level equivalent to that achieved by parenteral administration in the range of from about 10 mg/kg body weight to about 400 mg/kg body weight.

67. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 57, further comprising administering to said patient a supplemental amount of said otoprotective agent after the administration of said effective amount.

68. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 67, wherein said supplemental amount of said otoprotective agent is administered orally, parenterally, or topically to the round window membrane of said patient.

69. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 68, wherein the administration of said supplemental amount of said otoprotective agent is sufficient to maintain an effective blood serum level of the otoprotective agent in said patient for a period of from one to fourteen days after the administration of said effective amount.

70. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 68, wherein the administration of said supplemental amount of said otoprotective agent is sufficient to maintain a blood serum level of otoprotective agent within said patient of from about 20% to about 70% of the blood serum level achieved by administration of the effective amount of said otoprotective agent.

71. (currently amended). A method for preventing or treating ototoxicity in a patient exposed to noise for a time and at an intensity sufficient to result in ototoxicity, the method comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of an otoprotective agent comprising D-methionine, L-methionine, D,L-methionine, a combination thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, the administration of

said effective amount of said otoprotective agent resulting in a blood serum level equivalent to that achieved by parenteral administration in the range of from about 10 mg/kg body weight to about 400 mg/kg body weight, provided that, at the time said otoprotective agent is administered, an antineoplastic effective dose of cisplatin has not been **administered or** prescribed for administration to said patient.

72. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 71, wherein said otoprotective agent is administered parenterally, orally or topically to the round window membrane of said patient.

73. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 71, wherein said effective amount of said otoprotective agent is administered to said patient in a time period ranging from about 336 hours before to about 336 hours after said exposure to noise.

74. (currently amended). **The [[A]]** method as set forth in claim 71, further comprising administering to said patient a supplemental amount of said otoprotective agent after the administration of said effective amount, the administration of said supplemental amount of said otoprotective agent being sufficient to maintain a blood serum level of otoprotective agent within said patient of from about 20% to about 70% of the blood serum level achieved by administration of the effective amount of said otoprotective agent.